

Application No.: 10/683,618
Amendment dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 18, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): An electrical switch, comprising;
a magnetic coupler layer, with a top and a bottom surface, characterized by at least one opening;
a magnetic flexible layer, with a top and a bottom surface, characterized by at least one flexible armature;
a magnetic attractive force between the magnetic coupler layer and the magnetic flexible layer;
a magnetic attractive force between the magnetic coupler layer and the at least one flexible armature such that the bottom surface of the magnetic coupler layer is normally magnetically coupled to the at least one flexible armature;
at least one actuation member that is capable of passing through the at least one opening such that the at least one flexible armature may be manipulated by a switch user;
a bottom layer;
at least one debossed spacer means formed in the magnetic flexible layer so that the bottom surface of the magnetic flexible layer is substantially supported above the bottom layer to create at least one armature cavity for the at least one flexible armature; and
at least one set of electrical conductors capable of switching between an electrically opened and an electrically closed position when the switch user manipulates the at least one flexible armature.

Claim 2 (original): The electrical switch of claim 1 wherein the at least one actuation member is an embossed crown formed in the at least one flexible armature.

Claim 3 (original): The electrical switch of claim 2 further comprising markings, such as printing or painting, on that surface of the embossed crown that will be visible to the switch user.

Claim 4 (original): The electrical switch of claim 1 further comprising an electrically conductive material that at least partially covers the at least one flexible armature, and wherein the at least one set of electrical conductors is formed on the bottom layer such that the electrical switch is electrically closed by the electrically conductive material when the switch user manipulates the at least one flexible armature away from the normally magnetically coupled position.

Claim 5 (original): The electrical switch of claim 1 further comprising a thin sheet of durable material that is adhesively fixed to the bottom of the flexible magnetic layer before the at least one flexible armature and the at least one debossed spacer means are formed in the flexible magnetic layer.

Claim 6 (original): The electrical switch of claim 1 wherein the at least one set of electrical conductors are arranged between the bottom surface of the magnetic coupler layer and the at least one flexible armature such that the electrical switch is electrically closed when the at least one flexible armature is in the normally magnetically coupled position.

Claim 7 (original): The electrical switch of claim 1 wherein the bottom layer is a membrane switch assembly.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The electrical switch of claim 1 wherein the magnetic coupler layer and the magnetic flexible layer are substantially the same size, and these two layers are substantially housed within a casing of an electronic device such that the two layers are properly positioned over the bottom layer when the electronic device is fully assembled.

Claims 9-20 (previously withdrawn)